

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are presented for examination.

The title has been amended to more accurately reflect the process nature of the invention being claimed.

The independent method claims have been amended to more accurately parallel in substance the recently amended product claims of parent U.S. Application No. 09/460,660, wherein an allowance is anticipated.

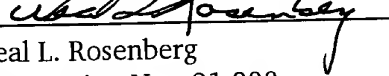
In view of the above amendments and remarks, a prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Request for Extension of Time, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Request for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required for such a Request for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and not submitted herewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of the undersigned attorneys, Account No. 01-1785; any refund should be credited to the same account. One copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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REDLINED VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

Rewrite Claims 1, 16, 20, 21, and 24 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having high elongation in a first direction and low elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and[;]

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction.

16. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high percent elongation in a first direction and high tensile strength and low percent elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction, the

total bonding area along the second direction being 1.1-5.0 times greater than along the first direction, thereby causing the nonwoven to have unbonded fiber portions and bonded fiber portions, with a bonded portion/unbonded portion ratio greater along the second direction than along the first direction.

20. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high elongation in a first direction and high tensile strength and low elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and defining a total bonding area along the second direction greater than along the first direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction, the bonding points defining gaps therebetween of unbonded nonwoven in the first direction of a length greater than the length of the gaps therebetween of unbonded nonwoven defined by the bonding points in the second direction.

21. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having high elongation in a first direction and low elongation relative thereto in a second direction normal to the first direction, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and having a center-to-center separation greater in the first direction than in the second direction, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the first direction different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the second direction.

24. (Amended) A method of making a nonwoven fabric having low tensile strength and high elongation in the CD and high tensile strength and low elongation relative thereto in the MD, comprising the steps of:

(A) providing a nonwoven defined by substantially randomly oriented, substantially continuous fibers; and

(B) applying to the nonwoven a regular pattern of bonding points, the bonding points having a common orientation and common dimensions and being non-symmetrical in plan, the bonding points forming a uniform pattern of bond density in the CD different from the uniform pattern of bond density in the MD, each bonding point having an extension in the CD less than the extension in the MD.